

Vavilov–Frankel Fellowship

Award helps secure the future of agricultural biodiversity

The Vavilov–Frankel Fellowship Fund was created to commemorate the tremendous contributions to plant science by Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov of Russia and Sir Otto Frankel of Australia.

Vavilov was one of the first scientists to recognize the value of diversity for crop improvement, while Frankel pointed out the importance of farmer-created varieties for plant breeding. Sir Otto was also instrumental in drawing world attention to the urgent need to conserve crop diversity. He played a key role in the creation of Bioversity International in 1974.



Photo caption: Top right, Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov; bottom left, Sir Otto Frankel. From the cover of Bioversity's publication (at the time IPGRI) 'Scientists, Plants and Politics' by Robin Pistorius, Vavilov–Frankel fellow, 1993

The 1-year fellowships enable young scientists to carry out innovative research outside their home countries, thereby contributing both to their professional development and to their countries' ability to manage and conserve crop diversity. Since 2004 the fellowships have been supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Australia, and Pioneer Hi-Bred, A DuPont Business.

Fellowships have been awarded to scientists from countries all over the world, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, Turkey, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

For more information about the fellowships, visit the Vavilov–Frankel web page at:
http://www.bioversityinternational.org/training/research_fellowships/a_history_of_the_vavilov_frankel_fellowship.html